

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2002

**PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR SUPREME COURT SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON CHILD CUSTODY ISSUES**

The Special Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Child Custody Issues will hold a public hearing on Thursday, November 14 focusing on child custody issues that arise in the context of dissolution of marriage cases.

The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in Room C-500 of the State of Illinois Building at 160 N. LaSalle Street in Chicago.

Members of the public, legal practitioners and child welfare professionals are invited to give their comments either through testimony at the hearing or by submitting written materials.

The hearing is being held by the Subcommittee on Custody Problems in Dissolution of Marriage Cases of the Special Supreme Court Committee. The goal is to identify practices and procedures that will ensure custody determinations are timely and consistent with the best interests of the child.

Anyone who wishes to provide written comments or to seek to testify at the hearing should advise the subcommittee no later than Thursday, November 7. Written comments and requests to testify should be addressed to:

Special Supreme Court Committee on Child Custody Issues
C/O Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
222 N. LaSalle Street, 13th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Testimony and comments are invited on these issues:

- Court management procedures;
- Parental education requirements;
- Use of mediation and other alternative dispute resolution processes;
- Visitation;

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- Use of experts;
- Timely hearing and resolution of cases;
- Coordination of cases with other pending cases affecting child custody;
- Representation of parents;
- Representation of children;
- The timely resolution of appeals.

Those seeking permission to testify or to submit written comments are asked to list their organization, agency or employer and include their daytime telephone number and facsimile number.

It is requested that testimony not refer to specific, pending cases.

Media coverage is invited and those media wishing to attend are asked to contact Joseph Tybor, press secretary for the Illinois Supreme Court at 312-793-2323.

The Special Committee was established by the Illinois Supreme Court Jan. 30, 2002 to study child custody, parental termination and adoption issues. It is composed of Chair Illinois Appellate Justice Alan Greiman and 14 other judges from around the state who are familiar and experienced in child custody issues.

Illinois Supreme Court Justices Thomas R. Fitzgerald and Rita B. Garman serve as Supreme Court liaisons to the Special Committee.

Members of the subcommittee holding the hearing are: Judge Moshe Jacobius from the Circuit Court of Cook County, chair of the Custody Problems in Dissolution of Marriage Cases subcommittee of the Special Committee on Child Custody; Appellate Court Judge R. Peter Grometer from the Second Judicial District; Associate Judge Barbara Crowder from the Third Judicial Circuit in Edwardsville; Circuit Judge Scott Drazewski from the 11th Judicial Circuit in Bloomington; Associate Judge Karen G. Shields from Cook County Circuit Court; and Circuit Judge J. Peter Ault from the 10th Judicial Circuit in Pekin.